

## WASHINGTON CRITIC



EVERY EVENING  
BY THE  
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JALLET KILBOURN, PRESIDENT,  
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WASHINGTON, D. C.

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WASHINGTON, APRIL 24, 1890.

## THE RAILWAY PROBLEM.

The reference once more to the District Commissioners of the project for removing the tracks of the B. & P. Railroad from Sixth street, and of accommodating the traffic of the road into and through the city in such way as to cause least detriment to property in South Washington, brings the whole matter under consideration again. The proposed plan is that after January 1, 1894, the road shall enter the city along the northern shore of the Eastern Branch, at a point between L and M streets south; thence with a double track on and under K street south, Canal street and Virginia avenue to a passenger station south of the intersection of Virginia and Maryland avenues, and thence along Maryland avenue to the Long Bridge.

After passing Delaware avenue the tracks shall be depressed below the adjacent surface grade, suitable bridges shall be constructed over the tracks of the road at the intersection of all streets from Four and a half to Twelfth, and the entire route of the road shall be enclosed by an iron fence or railing upon a stone parapet.

Last week Vice-President Green of the B. & P. Road, appeared before the committee and represented that the proposed changes would subject his company to great expense and that the plan involved great engineering difficulties. He claimed that his road had come into Washington at the earnest solicitation of its citizens, and that its tracks and depot had been located by Congressional action. It was therefore unjust, he said, to take any measures which, in these circumstances, would be embarrassing or oppressive to his company.

On the other hand, the representatives of the city board of trade held that the Baltimore and Potomac road was very anxious to come to Washington, not only to secure its share of the local traffic, but to find here a connecting link with the Southern railway system. They represented that the matter was not one of gratitude to the railroad, but one of municipal regulation, with a view to the best interests of the city. In regard to the expense involved, they held that it did not compare with the loss through impaired valuation of property and general annoyance which citizens of South Washington had for so many years been obliged to endure. It will thus be seen that the B. & P. Railroad problem is one to be considered with great moderation and with due regard to all the interests involved. It is very desirable that the evils complained of in South Washington should be alleviated as far as possible, but on the other hand the value of the road to the convenience and other interests of this city has been so long known and felt that any change for the worse would be universally deplored.

On one point all citizens will agree. It is that any change that will leave the Smithsonian Mall free and open from end to end will restore its beauty and confer a public benefit.

## THE SILVER QUESTION.

It is very evident that the Republican majority in Congress has put forth an honest endeavor to arrive at a conclusion on the silver question which should command the general approval of their party, but it is equally certain that such a conclusion has not yet been arrived at.

There is in the minds of the moderate silver men a feeling that the extremists, who are themselves largely interested in the silver product, desire, by means of such legislation as is now contemplated, to make the United States Treasury a ready-made and unresisting market for the whole output of the mines, and that they desire free coinage for purely selfish purposes. Of course, the free coinage men do not admit this, but, directing attention to the insufficiency of current money in circulation, they insist that they have the metal out of which money can be made to relieve the present alleged stringency.

It so happens that all sections of the silver party agree that there is a contraction of the currency which is detrimental to business interests and destructive of property values. The main argument for the free coinage of silver is derived from this fact. The moderate silver men admit the fact but stand in as much dread of inflation as of contraction. These latter, therefore, desire to surround the operations of the Government in silver with such safeguards as would prevent the inflation of the currency beyond the needs of the natural expansion of business.

Secretary Windom professes himself a moderate silver man. The purpose of his bill is to meet the demand for an increase of circulation by the use of certificates issued on deposits of silver bullion in such a way as not to imperil the national credit. He, too, believes that the currency is contracted and he states that the effect of his bill, if in operation, would be to add from fifty to sixty million dollars annually. His bill further provides for the free coinage of silver when its market price is one dollar for 371.25 grains of pure silver, and he claims that while it thus recognizes silver, it affords safeguards against the embarrassments which might arise from speculative dealings in the precious metal.

The Senate bill proposes the coinage

of \$4,500,000 a month, that is \$54,000,000 a year. What is known as the House bill provides for unlimited bullion deposits and the emission of certificates redeemable in bullion or "lawful money" at the holders' option. It will be seen that these three bills propose an addition to the currency of over \$50,000,000 a year. But as the whole silver product of the country is only a little over \$50,000,000 a year the difference in the various measures do not seem to be worth wrangling about. The present law authorizes the coinage of \$2,000,000 worth of silver a month as a minimum and \$4,000,000 worth as a maximum. It would not be wonderful if the various factions should come to agree upon Senator Plumb's proposition to amend the present law, so as to render it obligatory upon the Treasury to coin silver at the maximum limit, that is at the rate of four million dollars' worth a month, which would make about \$50,000,000 a year.

## A SUCCESSION OF RACES.

According to the New York Evening Post any one observing the changes of residence which take place year by year in the older streets of New York can see that one race can actually drive out another. It must be remembered that these streets were once inhabited by the best citizens who deemed themselves fortunate in occupying such pleasant places. Such business turn of the city knew maintained itself in streets far down below Canal street.

But as immigration came and the lower city got to be crowded the American had to betake himself to the higher grounds of the island and there establish himself in a home. The Irish contingent did not delay its speedy occupation, and for a score of years and more it did much to advance and accelerate the prosperity of the city. A standing joke for many years had reference to the fact that the Irish governed New York.

When the Irish vacated their tenement houses for better homes—when they began to occupy the almshouses and the tenements of the city, and their deserted dwellings down town and drove out whatever remnant of Irish occupation still remained. These latter have not yet reached the almshouse, but it is very probable that they will do so when some new field may open to the Irish, affording them larger opportunities for politics and government.

What has been true in some of the old streets of New York in regard to the succession of the Irish by the Italians, has also been true in others of those streets in the experience of the German Jews. There was a time when several of the down town streets were largely occupied by German Jews. Latterly these have been forced up town or driven out of the city altogether by the pressure of new immigrants. Their places have been quickly occupied by Polish, Hungarian and Russian Jews.

The question is what race or nationality is next to land at the Battery, creep up the down town streets and keep going upward and acquiring influence until it, too, shall aspire to the government of the city? And in all this what place has the American? In fact, he is too much occupied with business to care whether or not Irish Aldermen are governing him or to note the settling caldron of communistic elements that are getting ready to boil in what is to him a part of the city almost unknown.

## A CURIOUS BOOK.

A book has recently been published, or rather printed in a special and private edition, reproducing Coleridge's annotations on the books which he read. Students of English literature need not be told that by his contemporaries Coleridge was regarded as the greatest mind of his time. His original genius was wonderful, and his scholarly acquirements were immense. What he was as a poet is but an indication of what he might have been. He was also a great philosopher, theologian and litterateur.

But he was especially and above all things an omnivorous reader. It was his habit when reading to note on the margins or on the fly-leaves of the book his criticisms and opinions on such passages as were worthy of remark. These notes, having been made on the spur of the moment, and with no thought of their ever reaching the public, were after his death greatly prized by his friends. They justly regarded them as giving a better insight into the working of the poet-philosopher's mind than the *Biographia Literaria* which he published with a view of revealing the method of his mental development and growth.

The books so annotated have been collected and now occupy a special place in the library of the British Museum. Mr. William F. Taylor has found access to these volumes and has so reprinted them that the page or passage which interested Coleridge is reproduced side by side with the comment which Coleridge made upon it, just as he wrote it. Besides this he has reproduced in fac simile what Coleridge wrote on the fly-leaves at the end of different volumes. Only 556 copies of this compilation have been produced and the work will not be reprinted, and fifty copies only will reach the United States. Two copies have been brought to Boston and both of these are in private hands. It is hoped that some of the great public libraries may secure copies and that the work may thus become accessible to scholars and the public generally.

THE REPORT THAT editor Waterson lost \$1,000 at poker in Memphis last day is discredited. It is believed to be a slander on the god-father and sponsor of the star-eyed Goddess of Reform. The explanation offered is that the Kentucky editor has a double, and the press of the country can engage in no more laudable endeavor than that of discovering the bad man who is persecuting Mr. Waterson in Tennessee.

AS A SEQUEL to the distemper which last winter overspread Europe and was experienced to a considerable extent in America, and which was known under the imported name of "la grippe," it seems another singular disease is developing on the same trail. Like its predecessor the new disease, "la nona," starts from Italy and seizes almost ex-

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Mrs. Spinoza, who stood with her husband and a large corps of assistants, wore a handsome gown of olive green satin, brocaded in roses, with panels and trimmings of olive green plush and diamonds. Among the ladies of the receiving party were Mrs. E. H. Fish, Mrs. Houston, Mrs. John H. Flag of New York, Miss Wilson and Miss David Wilson of Baltimore, Mrs. Owens of Indiana, Mrs. Britton, Mrs. Gibbs, Miss Bessie Rutherford, Miss Letitia Aldrich, Mrs. Sellers, the Misses Wyard and Mrs. Henderson of Iowa.

The second parlor was used for the promenading, while in the third parlor the guests were entertained with vocal and instrumental music. Opening out from the second parlor was the large private dining hall, the walls of which were decorated with palms. Musicians were stationed in the balcony overlooking the apartment. The balcony and the chandeliers were decorated with asparagus vine. Tables were spread in the form of a hollow square, and the guests were seated at American Beauty roses and lilacs.

Mr. Wilson Barrett and Miss Mildred Lee were among the guests, who numbered nearly every one prominent in social, official and Congressional circles. One of the most agreeable progress of the evening was the season was that given by Miss Finley Tuesday evening at her home, 1920 Thirteenth street. There were four tables, and at the end of the evening, who had the honor of the evening, announced that Mr. Stone and Miss Dutton had won the first prize, while Miss Alexander and Mr. Gentry had succeeded in capturing the second prize. After the prizes had been awarded the guests were escorted by Mrs. and Miss Finley to the dining room, where a tempting collation was spread. Among those present were Mrs. Gifford, Miss Gibson, Mrs. Jones, Miss Livingston, Mrs. Stoddard, Mrs. Acker, Miss Jockum, Miss Rose and Mrs. W. L. Finley, and Messrs. Stone, Smith, McHenry, Gentry, H. J. Finley, W. L. Finley, Rose, Acker, Stoddard and Jockum.

The marriage of Miss Eloise Root to Mr. John Stokes Adams took place at noon yesterday at Epiphany Church. The bride entered on the arm of her uncle, Mr. Cranch McIntyre, in a gown of white tulle, with a train of white lace, and carried a bouquet of white lilies. Miss Mauro, cousin of the bride, was maid of honor and wore white silk muslin with broad white lace. A wedding breakfast followed the ceremony at the church after which Mr. and Mrs. Adams left for a Northern trip on their return from which they will make their home in Philadelphia.

Lieutenant and Mrs. T. B. M. Mason, accompanied by Mrs. Myers and Mrs. Julian James, sailed from New York yesterday, the former to Carlsbad and the latter to Paris. The party will remain abroad until October.

Mrs. Robert Fleming was out calling yesterday for the first time in many weeks, during which she has been confined to the house by severe illness. Mrs. Russell Harrison will return to Montana at the end of the week with her father, ex-Senator Saunders.

Miss Cephaug of Clarkburg, W. Va